

"Cash for Clunkers" Vouchers Will Pay Up to \$4,500 Toward New Fuel Efficient Cars and Trucks

Washington, DC - Tuesday, Congressmen Harry Teague, Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan voted in favor of a "cash for clunkers" program that will allow consumers to trade in their old, gas-guzzling cars for vouchers worth up to \$4,500 to help pay for new, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act will spur the sale of up to one million more fuel-efficient cars and trucks nationwide, while stimulating the ailing auto industry and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

"There are a lot of miles of highway in southern New Mexico and many of my constituents drive long distances to see family, get to work or just to go to the grocery store and with the price of gas being on the rise daily travel can get pretty expensive," said Congressman Harry Teague "This program will allow constituents looking to save some money and upgrade to a more fuel efficient vehicle the chance to do so with some extra money in their pockets."

"The legislation helps families trade in their gas guzzlers for a more energy efficient car, which will help our economy and our environment," said Congressman Ben Ray Luján. "The program will benefit New Mexicans by assisting them in purchasing a car that is more energy efficient, cutting down on their gas bills."

"You can't teach an old car new tricks. Gas-guzzling cars put a strain on your wallet and the environment," said Congressman Martin Heinrich. "This bill would give consumers incentive to trade-in inefficient cars and trucks for a more environmentally friendly vehicle, which would stimulate car sales and increase the number of fuel-efficient cars on the road."

The legislation provides rebates for cars and trucks in the following four categories:

- Passenger Cars: The old vehicle must get 18 mpg or less. New vehicles with

improvement of at least 4 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher. New vehicles with improvement of at least 10 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.

- Light-Duty Trucks: The old vehicle must get 18 mpg or less. New vehicles with improvement of at least 2 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher. New vehicles with improvement of at least 5 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.

- Large light-Duty Trucks: The old vehicle must get 15 mpg or less. New vehicles with improvement of at least 1 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher or trade-in of a "work truck." New vehicles with improvement of at least 2 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.

- Work Trucks: The old vehicle must be a pre-2002 model. New vehicles in the same or smaller weight class will get a \$3,500 voucher.

The bipartisan legislation is supported by a broad coalition that includes the AFL-CIO, UAW, car dealers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.